



City of Santa Barbara  
**Infrastructure Financing Taskforce  
Meeting**

September 18, 2008  
11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.  
Granada Garage Conference Room  
1221 Anacapa Street

**City Staff Members**

James L. Armstrong  
*City Administrator*  
Robert D. Peirson  
*Director of Finance*  
Christine F. Andersen  
*Public Works Director*  
Paul A. Casey  
*Community Development Director*  
Jill Taura  
*Budget Manager*  
Kathy Kefauver  
*Administrative Analyst III*  
Lori Pedersen  
*Administrative Analyst*

**City Council Liaison**

Roger L. Horton  
*Councilmember*  
*Finance Committee, Chair*

**Committee Members**

Richard Jensen, *Chair*  
Stephen Kurtzer, *Vice-Chair*  
W. Scott Burns  
Robert Geis  
Renee Grubb  
Dudley Morris  
Frank Schipper

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 11:58 a.m.

**Members Present**

Chair Richard Jensen  
Robert Geis, Renee Grubb, Stephen Kurtzer, Dudley Morris

**Members Absent**

W. Scott Burns, Frank Schipper

**Staff Present**

Robert D. Peirson, Finance Director  
Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director  
Paul Casey, Community Development Director  
Cameron Benson, Creeks Manager  
Lori Pedersen, Administrative Analyst  
Jennifer Bartley, Executive Assistant to Mayor and Council

**2. Public Comments**

None.

**3. Approval of minutes from September 4, 2008.**

Approval of minutes was postponed until next meeting.

#### **4. Presentation on Creeks Program**

Cameron Benson, Creeks Manager, presented an overview of the Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Division. The Creeks Program is funded in part by the ballot measure, Measure B, which was passed in November 2001 to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax by 2% to directly fund the City's water quality program.

In 2003 the Creeks Program Funding Guidelines was established to determine whether a project or program is eligible for the Creeks Program funds. The general areas of program and project range from water quality improvement, creek restoration, policy and planning, and public information and education.

Mr. Benson explained to the Taskforce the difference between the Operational and Capital budget within the Creeks Division. Creek's Operational Budget includes the salary of full time employees and hourly employees including at-risk youth involved in the Youth Apprenticeship Program. The operational budget also includes projects under \$100,000 that will be finished within a year. The Capital Budget includes Capital Projects that are multiple year projects and costs over \$100,000.

The City currently has 60 miles of creeks within its jurisdiction. Total creek miles include four major creeks and two minor creeks plus a few tributaries.

The Creeks Program also has secured \$5 million in grants through Proposition 12, 13, and 50. Proposition 84 and 1E are just coming on-line and will help fund a flood control project for lower Mission Creek. Proposition B has no "sunset" and will always continue being a resource for funding. However, restoration funding could possibly come to an end in the future.

The Creeks Program currently has a seven member Creeks Advisory Committee. A few members are from the hotel/lodging industry, which plays an important role in the Creeks Program. Street Sweeping is also plays an important role in the Creeks Program. The Taskforce members commended the Creeks Program for being successful with program planning and being prepared in the even that additional funds become available through grants. The Taskforce was also commended the Program's strategy of "supplement but not supplant funding" within its Storm Water Management Program and its current regulation of operation and capital projects.

#### **5. Penultimate Review of the Report**

The Taskforce discussed the idea that a General Obligation Bond maybe the way to have more funds made available to Parks and Recreation and may appeal to larger constituency.

They also discussed whether or not it was necessary to be more specific and include the recent chaos on Wall Street in the section relation to the economy's current condition. The Taskforce also mentioned the need for an evaluation/ranking criteria for capital projects [i.e., Police Department needs are given the same priority as a park restroom remodel]. A possible evaluation/ranking strategy could be an "ancillary vs. necessity" project list. Members thought it was important for the City to focus on larger solutions regardless of the initial funding requirements instead of creating a band-aid projects which cost more money in the long term.

The Taskforce heard Staff's opinion on the findings and recommendations of the final report. Staff questioned the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for the creation of an Implementation Plan. After discussion the timeline was adjusted to "60 days after review by Council" in order to ensure action on City's part.

Additional discussion was held regarding an Advisory Ballot measure. The Taskforce wants to make sure that additional funds are not used to negotiate salaries and that Capital Projects have a voice. Members also mentioned focusing on "efficiency," "doing with less," and the ability to squeeze more out of the City's investments.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.